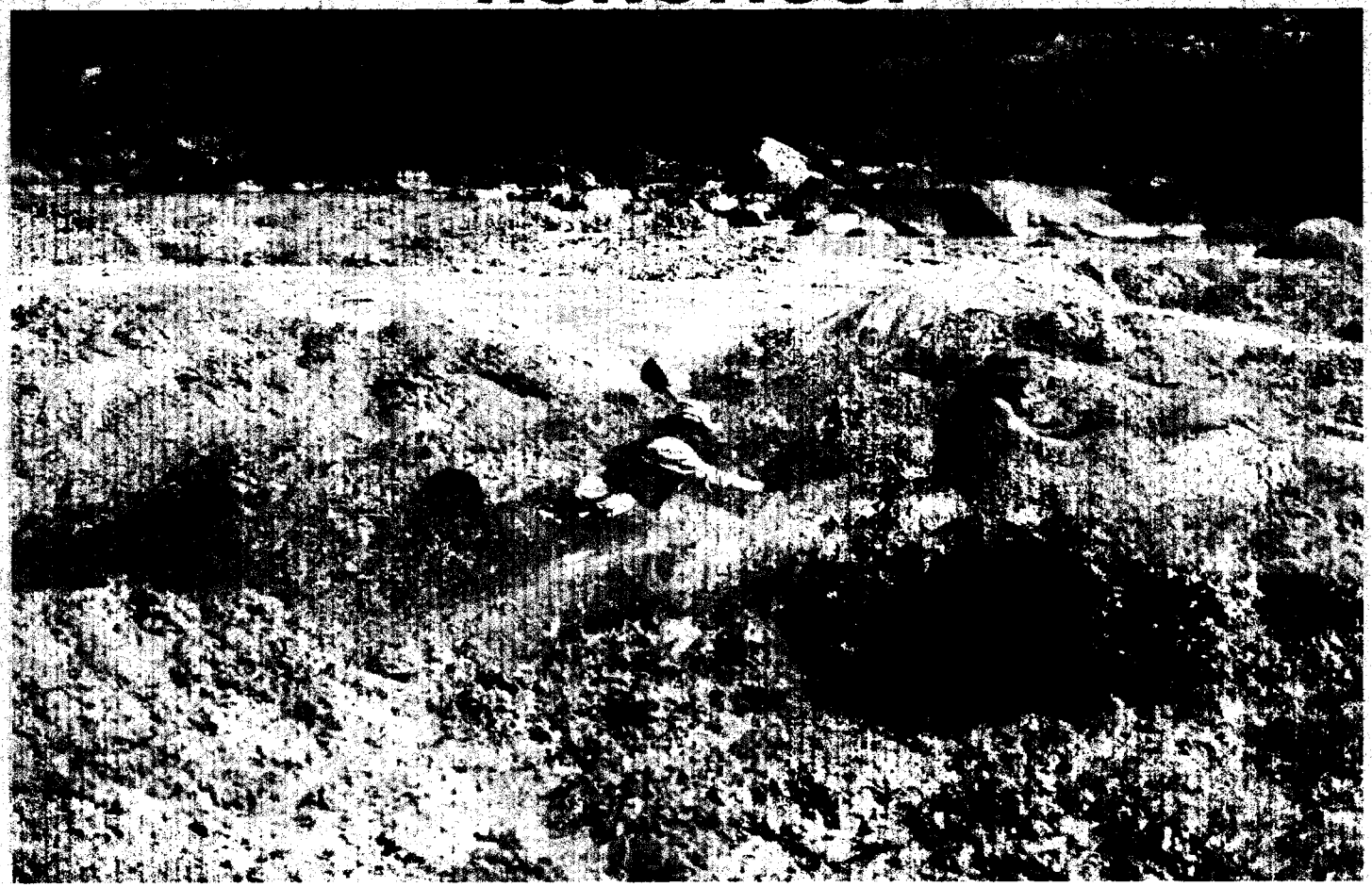
ATTACHMENT #2a.

Summary of Trinity TMDL

- In 1992, the EPA added the Trinity River to California's 303(d) impaired water list due to elevated sedimentation/siltation.
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has continued to identify the Trinity River as impaired in subsequent listing cycles, including the most recent in 2002.
- EPA's analysis underlying the TMDL supports the conclusion that the amount of sediment being delivered to the Trinity River from subwatersheds is excessive, even if no water was diverted from the Trinity basin.

In other words, EPA concluded that flow alone is incapable of resolving the sediment impairment to fisheries.



Sediment Sources

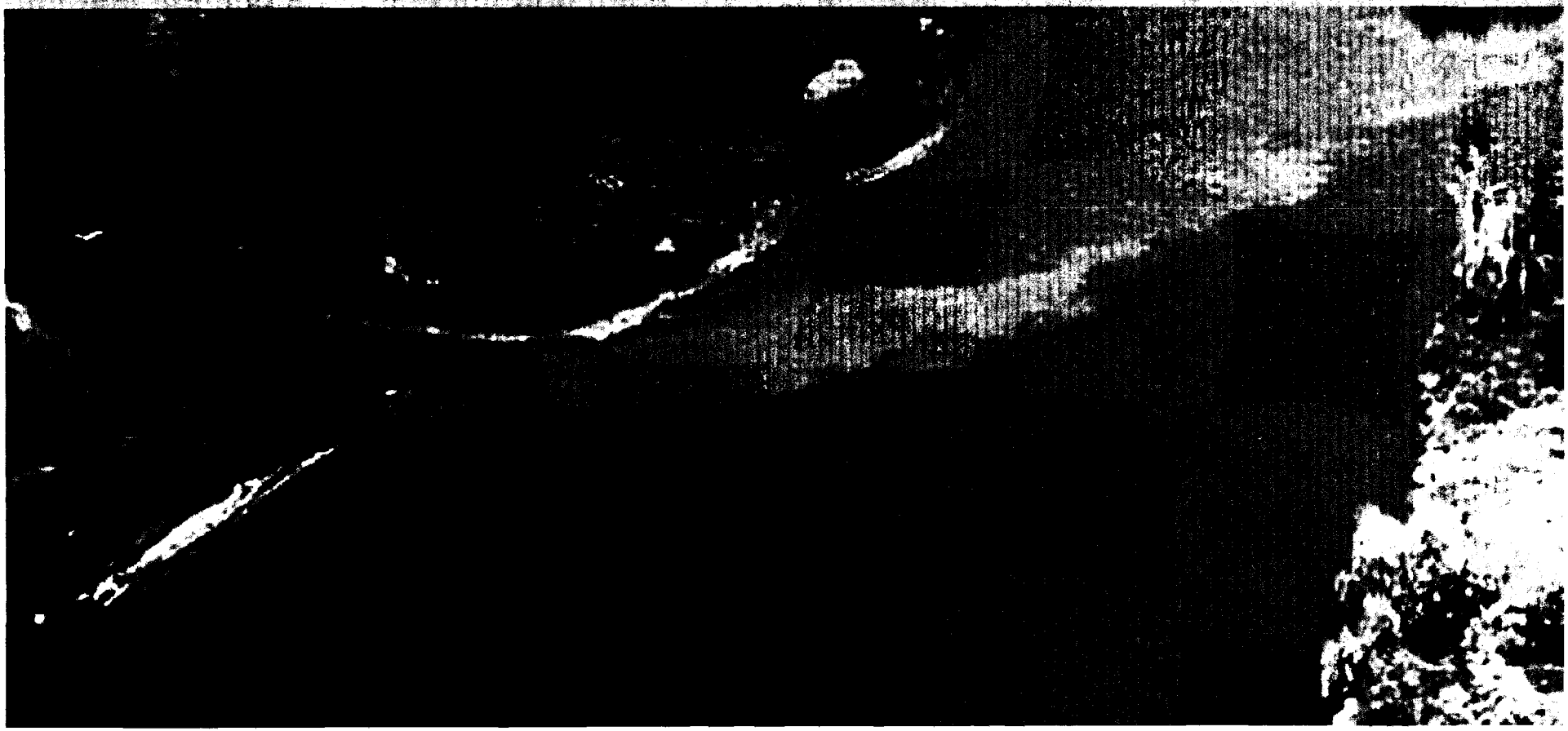
EPA adopted the Trinity River TMDL in 2001 stating that water quality standards for the Trinity River are exceeded due to excessive sediment/siltation from the following major source(s) of impairment:

- Roads
- Timber Harvesting
- Mining
- Natural sources

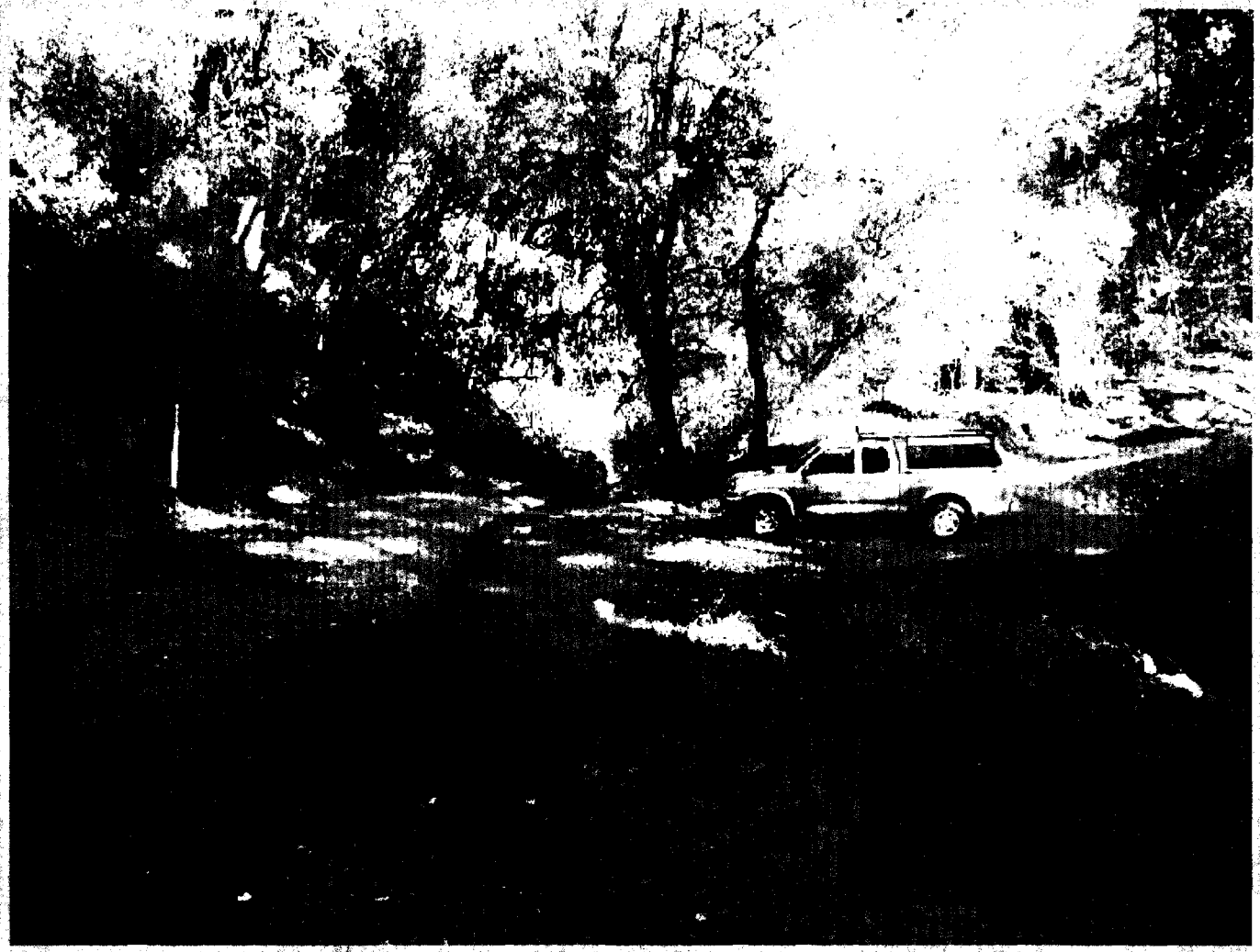
EPA Implementation Recommendations

1. Implement the flow schedule, restoration measures and adaptive management program called for in Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Record of Decision (ROD).
2. *Reduce sediment production from roads and timber harvest in sediment-impaired subwatersheds.*
3. *Continued sediment prevention for reference ("properly functioning") watersheds through timely implementation of existing programs.*

ROAD FAILURE AND SEDIMENT SOURCE EXAMPLES



Valdor Road in Junction City



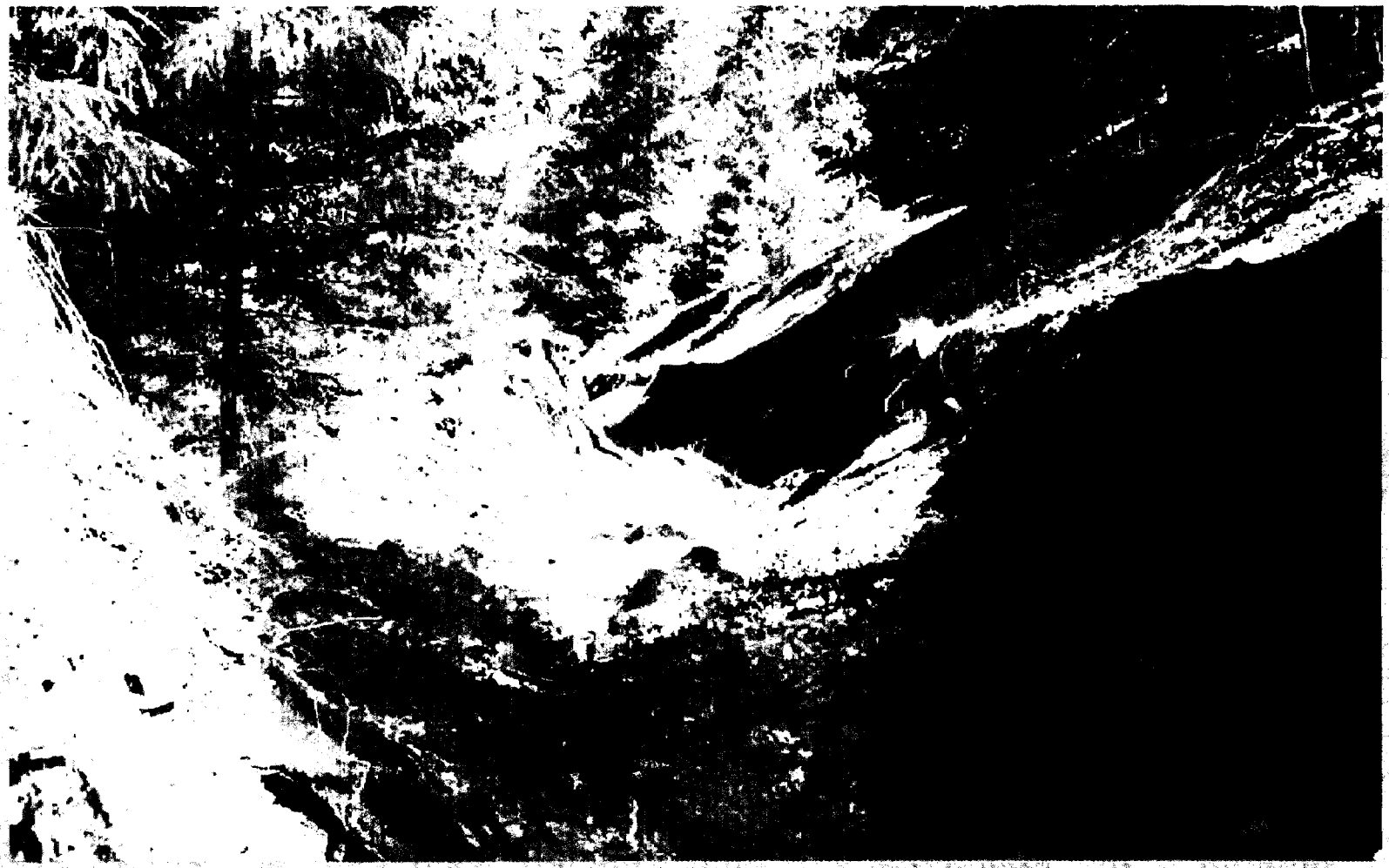
Stream crossing failure

Led to road failure.

Conrad Gulch Road in Junction City

Blow out at Spur 1 intersection due to undersized culvert.

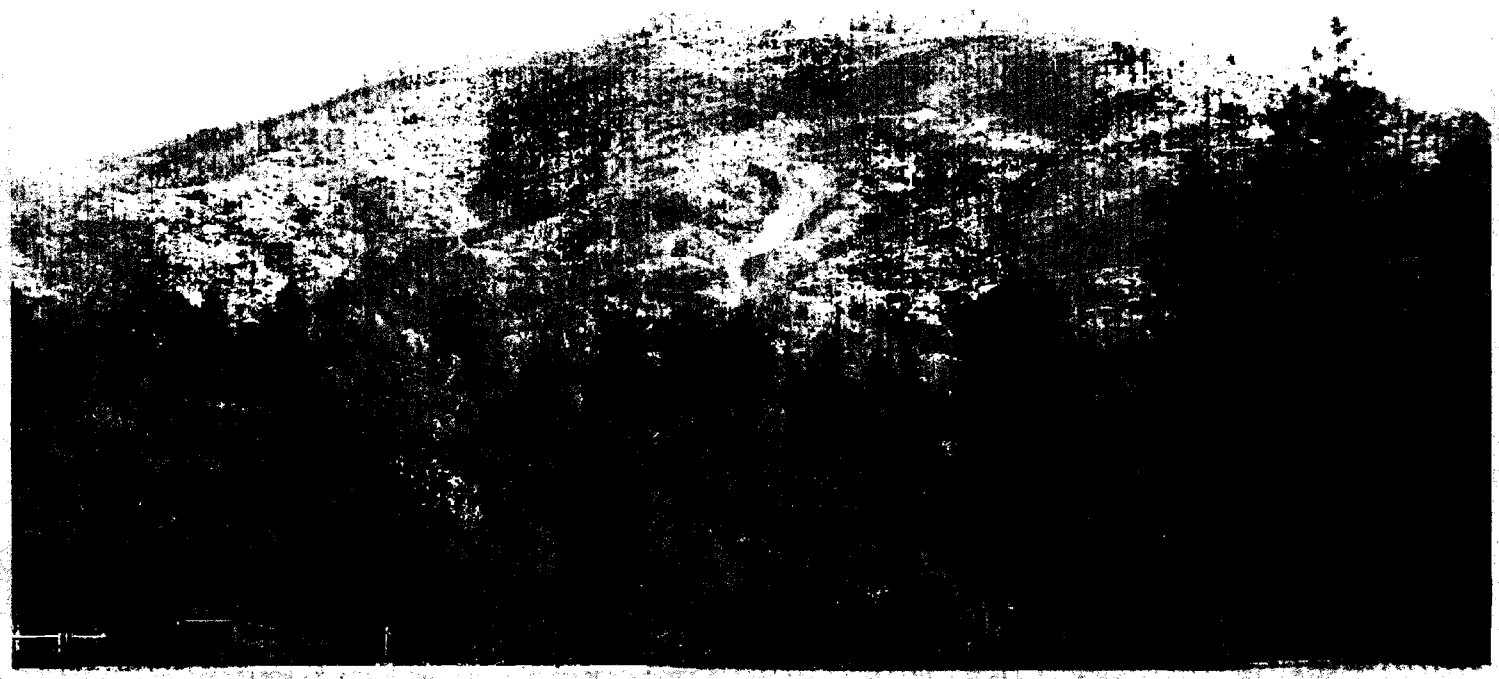
Conrad Gulch Road in Junction City



Stream crossing diverted down road in 2001

Lewiston Fire Area: Dark Gulch

Landslide that started in the Lowden fire area (1999) delivered an estimated 8,000 cubic yards of sediment to an inlet basin at mile 3.3 of Lewiston Road.



Soil brought down with the landslide

Excavation of buried inlet basin

ROD Recommendations

- "Watershed restoration efforts, addressing negative impacts which have resulted from land use practices in the Basin includes a watershed restoration program."
- As a component of the ROD, "The Trinity Management Council will guide an upslope watershed restoration program to address the problems of excessive sediment input from many of the tributaries of the Trinity River resulting from land use practices."
- "The watershed protection program of the Preferred Alternative includes road maintenance, road rehabilitation and road decommissioning on private and public lands within the Trinity River basin below Lewiston Dam, including the South Fork Trinity River basin."

Justification For Watershed Work

- Spawning and fish production in tributaries can count towards TRRP goals.
- Healthy tributaries provide spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fisheries.
- Excessive sediment from tributaries can have deleterious effects on TRRP restoration efforts as well as negatively impact scientific studies.
- Directly addresses TMDL issue of excessive sediment in the mainstem Trinity.

Trinity River Watershed Council

- Trinity River Watershed Council can be used to prioritize project proposals and assist with implementation of projects.
- Leverage of funding provided from the TRRP by the County and RCD to obtain additional grants through matching funding.
- Develop an action plan that will identify and prioritize projects that will improve water quality and fisheries habitat.

Chain of Events

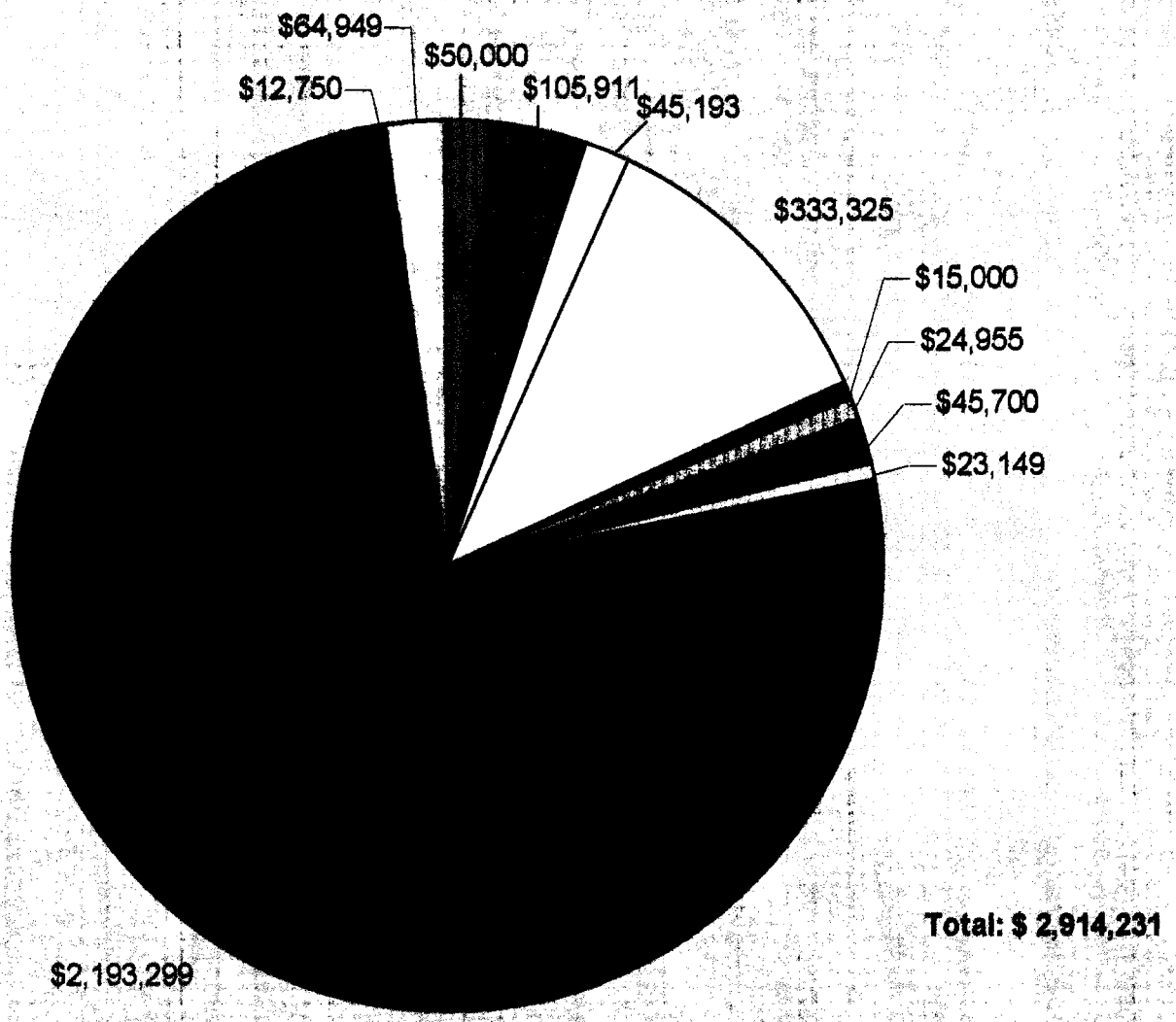
Watershed Coordinator Grant Funding of $50,000 through TRRP

- Used to fund watershed coordination activities
- Secures grants for restoration projects within the Trinity River Watershed
  - These projects are used as leverage to obtain additional grants through "in-kind" and "match" funding.

The $50,000 was leveraged into $2,914,231 in 2006.

RCD Projects Funded and Approved in 2006 by Type

(includes multiyear grants)

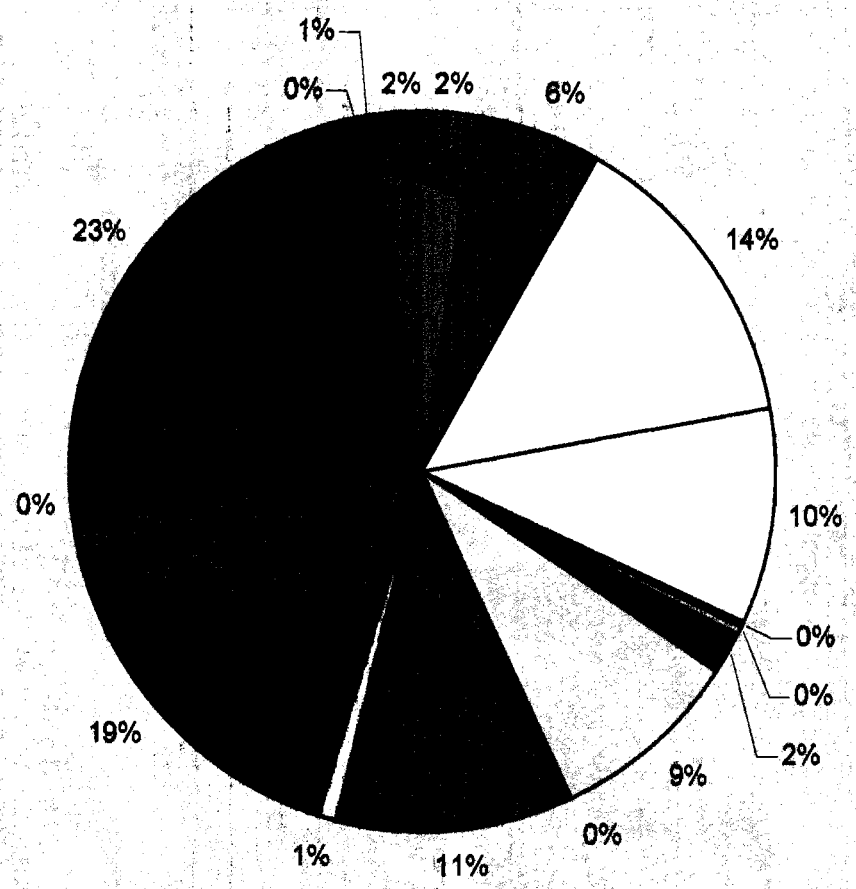


Total: $ 2,914,231

- Watershed Coordination
- Education
- Fisheries
- Fuels
- IT
- Planning
- Recreation
- Reveg
- Road
- Stewardship
- Waste Clean-up

Source of RCD Projects Funded and Approved in 2006

(includes multi-year grants)



- ■ Bureau of Land Management
- ■ BoR-Trinity River Restoration Program
- □ California Department of Fish and Game
- □ California Fire Safe Council (USFS)
- ■ California Regional Nutrition Network
- □ CalTrans
- ■ CDF-Wildland Urban Interface
- □ EPA/Yurok Tribe
- ■ NRCS
- ■ OHV Commission
- □ Private Land Owner
- ■ Resource Advisory Committee/USFS
- ■ RC&D Council
- ■ SWRCB Consolidated Grants
- ■ Trinity County/ Title III
- ■ USFS
- ■ Waste Management Board

In order to have a successful watershed program, it is vital to have a reliable and timely commitment of money for watershed restoration so planning and implementation of projects can occur.